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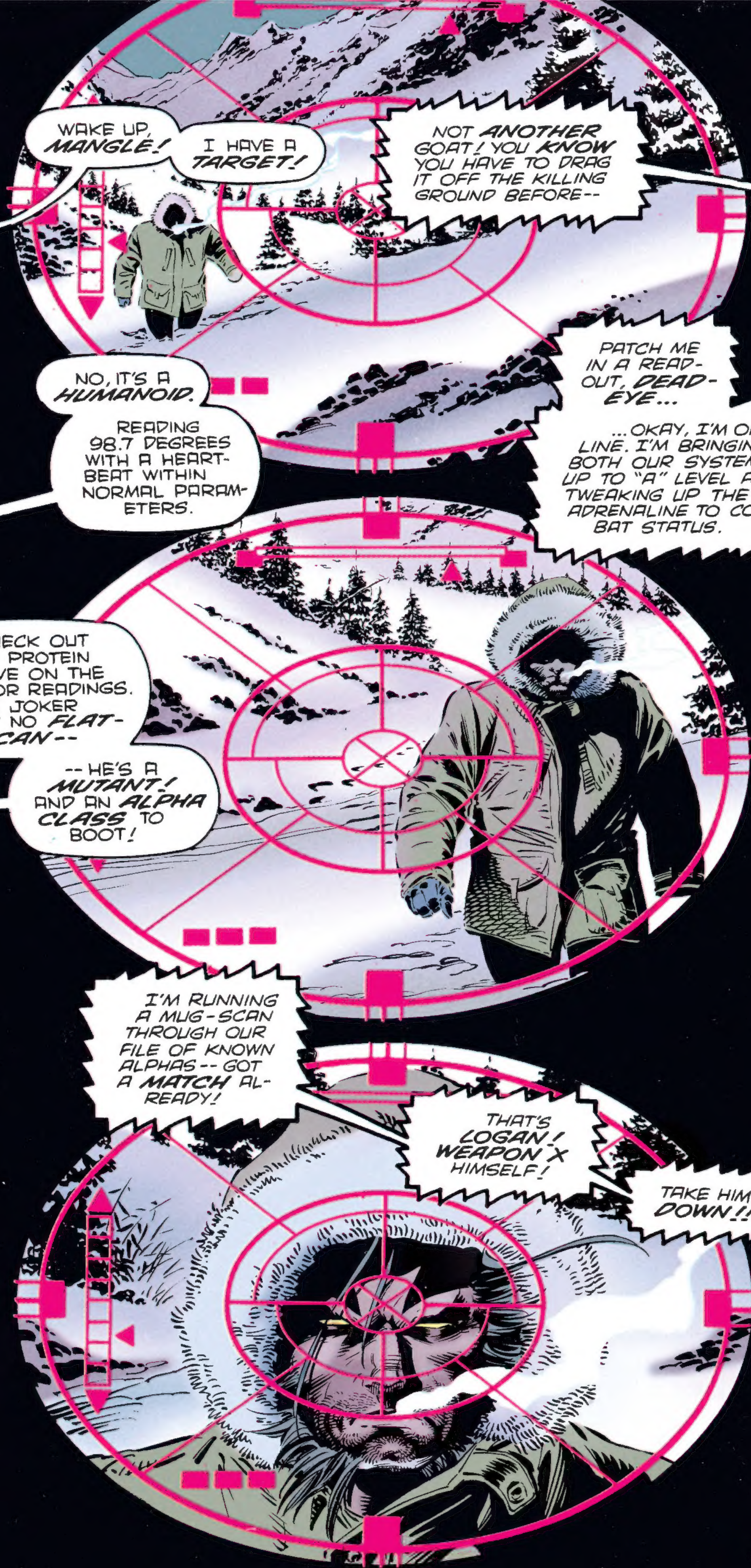

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STAN LEE Presents

A WORLD WITHOUT XAVIER

THE COMMON RIGHT OF TOADS AND MEN

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Dan GREEN & Mike SELLERS · Inkers
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Digital CHAMELEON · Separations
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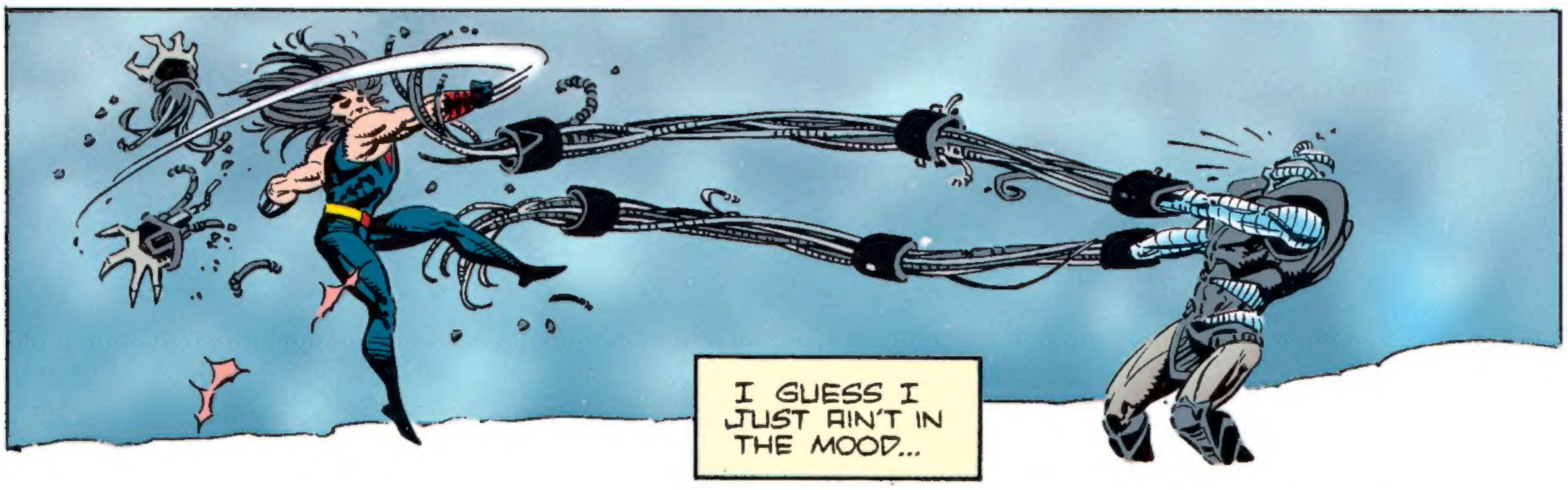
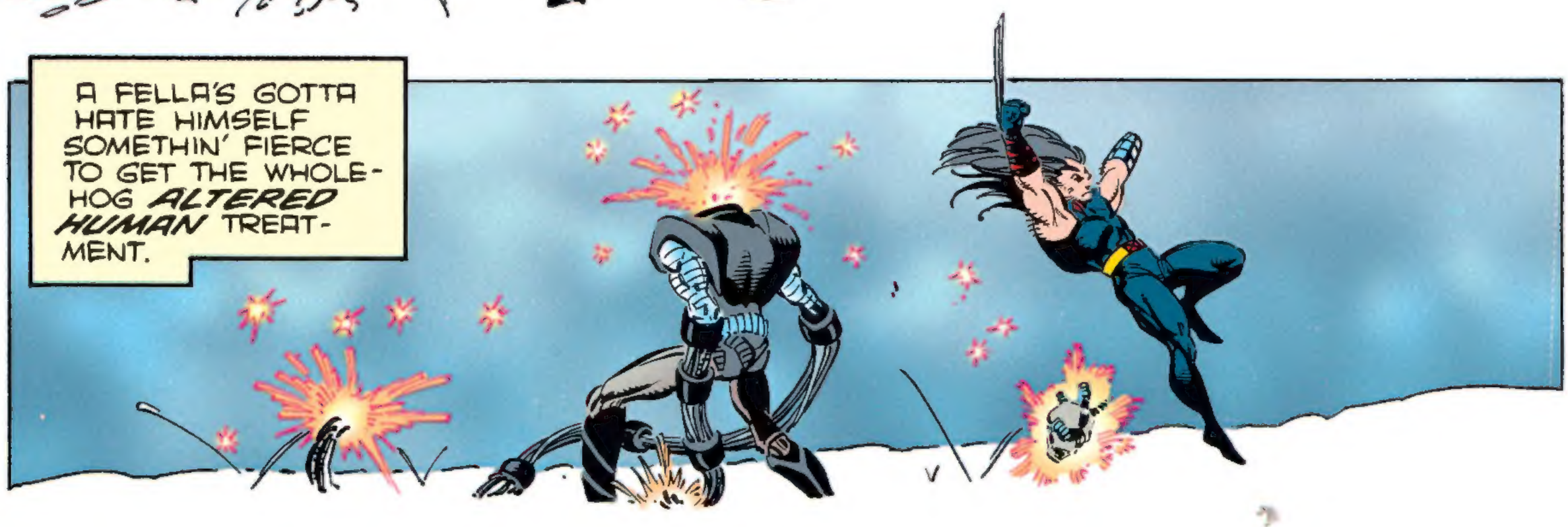
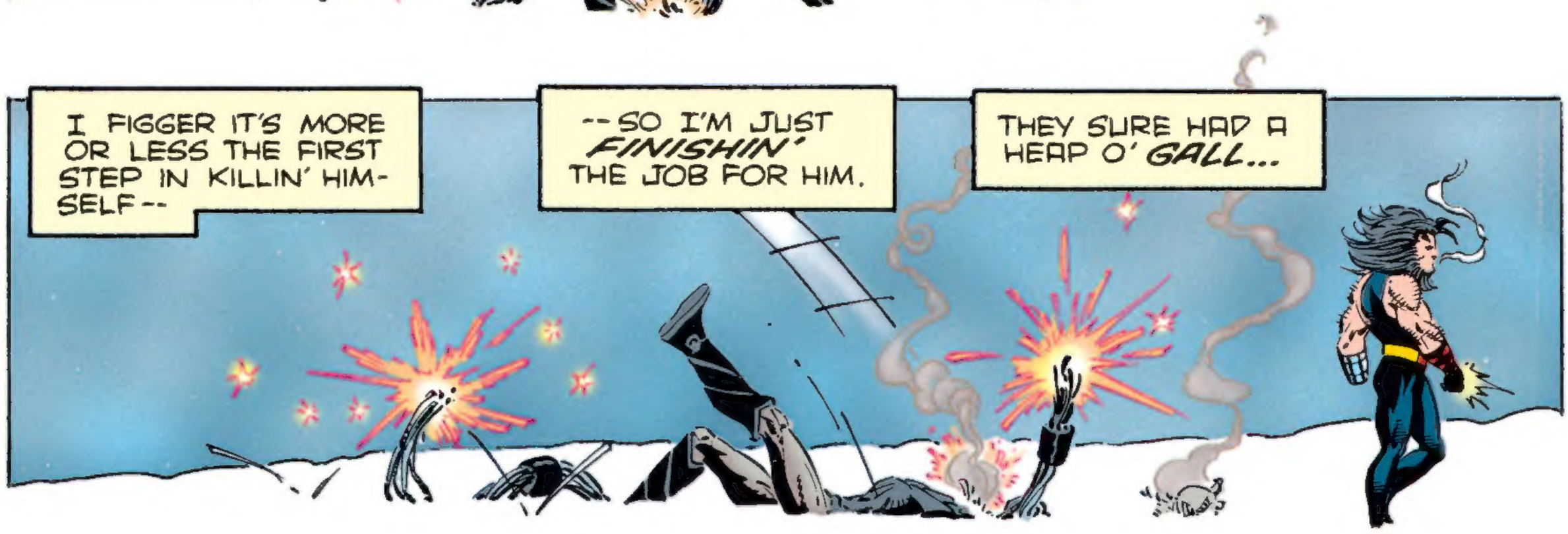
YOU BOYS COCLIN' YER TRANSISTORS IN THIS NECK O' THE WOODS FOR GRINS OR WHAT?
LORD APOCALYPSE KNEW THAT YOU RENEGADE GENE-TRAITORS WOULD COME SLINKING BACK TO THIS WEASEL'S NEST SOONER OR LATER--
SO HE SENT A COUPLE O' CYBERED-UP MUTANT WANNA-BES TO BUSH-WHACK US?
YOU GONNA WALK OVER TO ME AND DIE, OR DO I GOTTA COME TO YOU?
KA-SHOOOM!
WHY DON'T WE BOTH STAY RIGHT WHERE WE ARE!!


I GUESS I JUST AIN'T IN THE MOOD...

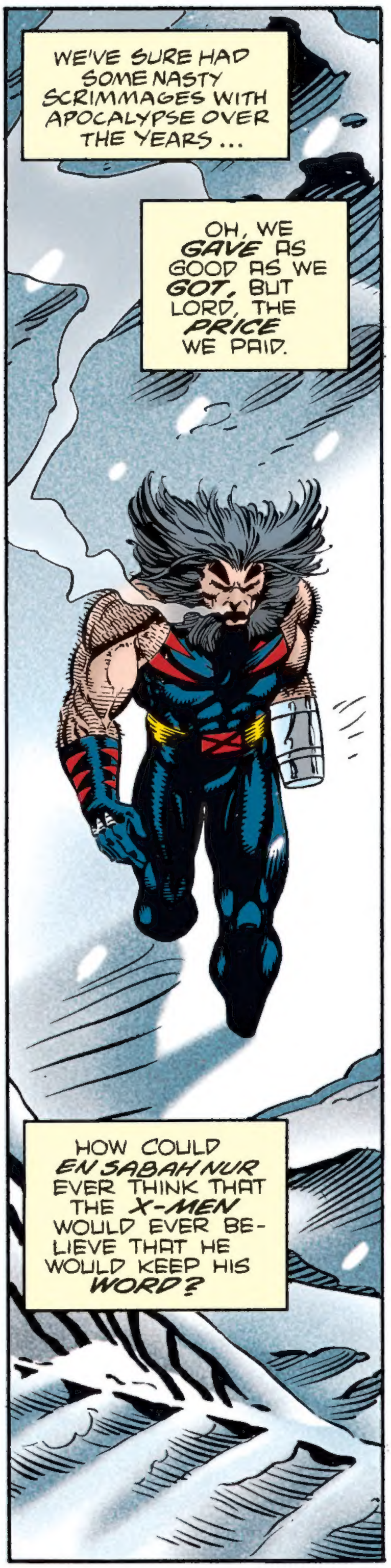
... FOR TRADING SNAPPY REPARTEE WITH SOME BOZO WHO TRADED IN HIS HUMANITY FOR A FULL-BODY JOB IN AN ELECTROLYTE BATH.
I MEAN, I'M A *MUTANT*; I WAS *BORN* DIFFERENT...

... AND I SURE DIDN'T *ASK* FOR THE SO-CALLED "ENHANCEMENTS" I GOT SADDLED WITH AS A RESULT O' THE *WEAPON X PROJECT!*


A FELLA'S GOTTA HATE HIMSELF SOMETHIN' FIERCE TO GET THE WHOLE-HOG *ALTERED HUMAN* TREATMENT.


I FIGGER IT'S MORE OR LESS THE FIRST STEP IN KILLIN' HIMSELF--
--SO I'M JUST *FINISHIN'* THE JOB FOR HIM.
THEY SURE HAD A HEAP O' *GALL*...

...SETTIN' AN AMBUSH RIGHT AT THE GATES O' WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN!
IT STILL TAKES MY BREATH AWAY...
...EVEN ALL DEVASTATED AND ABANDONED LIKE IT IS.
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE WAY IT LOOKED THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW IT. IT LOOKED LIKE...
...HOME.
AND THAT'S WHAT IT BECAME WHEN OL' ERIK LEHNSHERR TOOK ME IN AND SAVED ME FROM MY-SELF.
I HAD SOME O' THE HAPPIEST MOMENTS O' MY LIFE IN THIS PLACE...
R.I.P. WANDA
...AND SOME O' THE SADDEST.

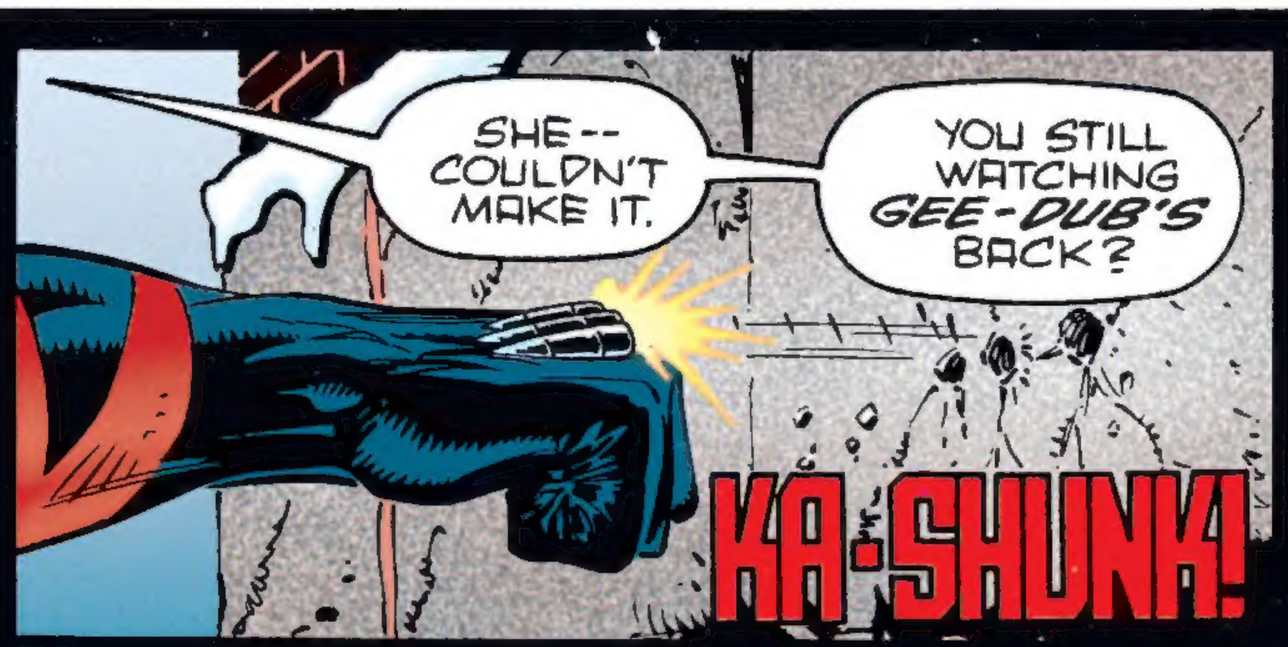

WE'VE SURE HAD SOME NASTY SCRIMMAGES WITH APOCALYPSE OVER THE YEARS ...
OH, WE GAVE AS GOOD AS WE GOT, BUT LORD, THE PRICE WE PAID.
HOW COULD EN SABAH NUR EVER THINK THAT THE X-MEN WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD KEEP HIS WORD?

THAT KELLY PACT WASN'T EVER WORTH THE MAGNETIC MEDIA IT'S ENCODED ON!

YOU MIGHT SAY I HAD MY SUSPICIONS BURNED INTO ME.
BUT, LIKE OL' BILLY BURROUGHS SAID...

"... PARANOIA IS SIMPLY KNOWIN' THE TRUTH."
CLICK CLICK
SNIKT!

NO USE SKULKIN' DOWNWIND IF YA DON'T EASE OFF THE SAFETIES REAL-QUIET-LIKE!
SHOOOOK!
LOGAN?
GOTTA BE CAROL DANVERS...
...I DON'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE WHO SMELLS O'GUN OIL, C-4 AND CHANEL NO. 5.
YOU REALLY DO KNOW HOW TO COMPLIMENT A LADY, DON'T YOU?
SHE WAS AN AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE SPOOK AND A SPACE AGENCY SECURITY HONCHO BEFORE SHE STARTED RUNNIN' WITH THE HUMAN DEFENSE LEAGUE...
... AIN'T MUCH THAT GETS BY HER.
WHERE'S YOUR BETTER HALF, THE PUISSANT AND PULCHRITUDINOUS JEAN GREY?

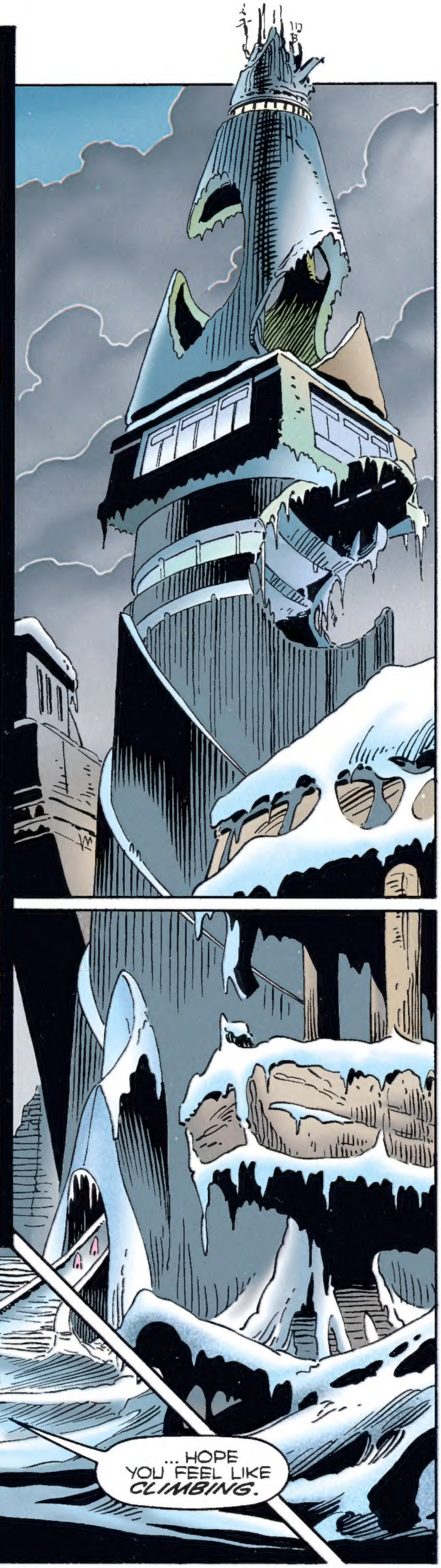

SHE-- COULDN'T MAKE IT.
YOU STILL WATCHING GEE-DUB'S BACK?
KA-SHUNK!

THAT'S RIGHT.
VIIIP!

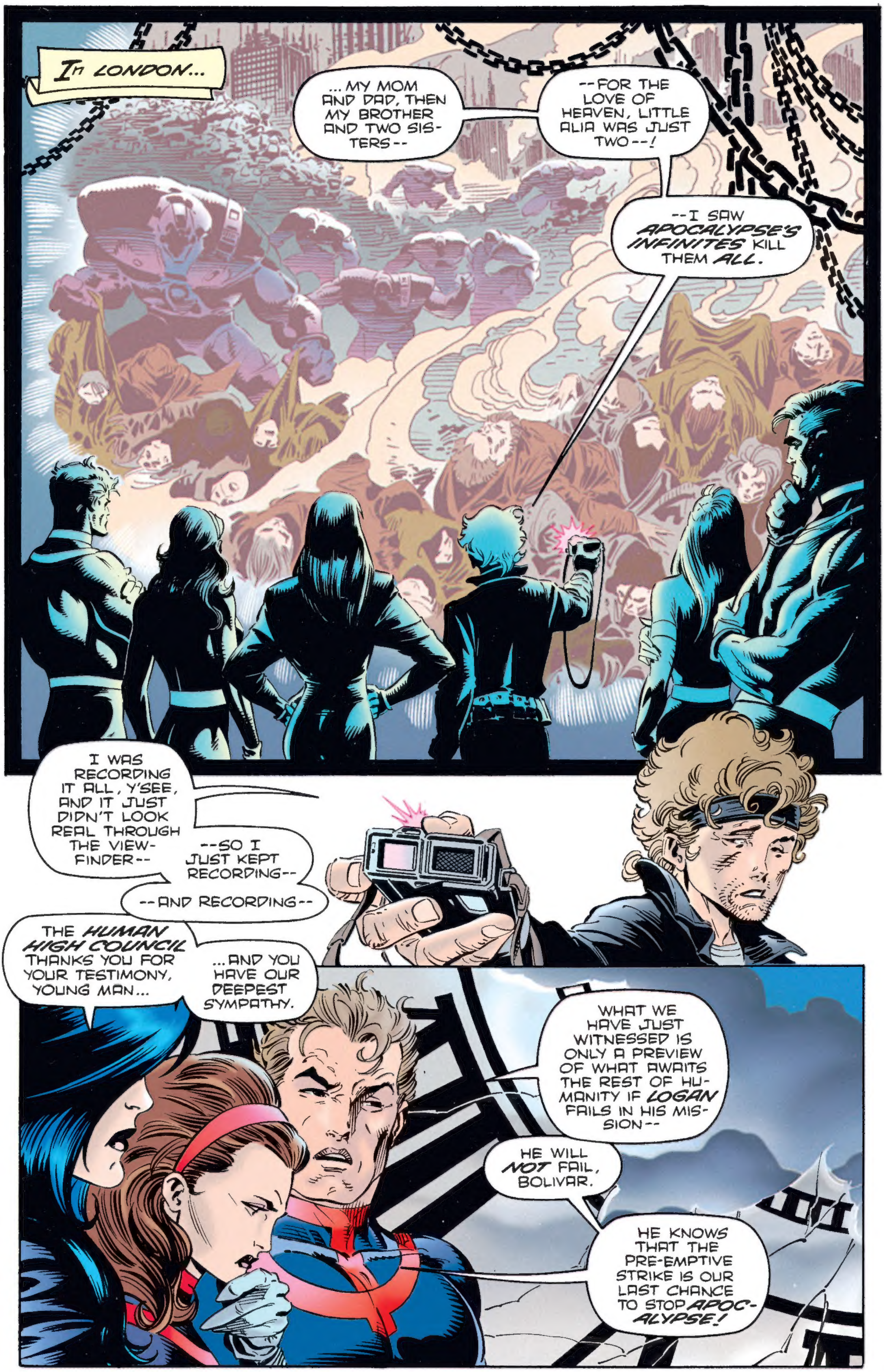
SEMPER VIVIT IN ARMIS.
WE DON'T WANT APOCALYPSE'S BULLY BOYS RUNNING A WET MISSION ON HIM, DO WE?

HE'S STILL HERE, THEN?
HE NEVER LEFT.

HE'S UP THERE.

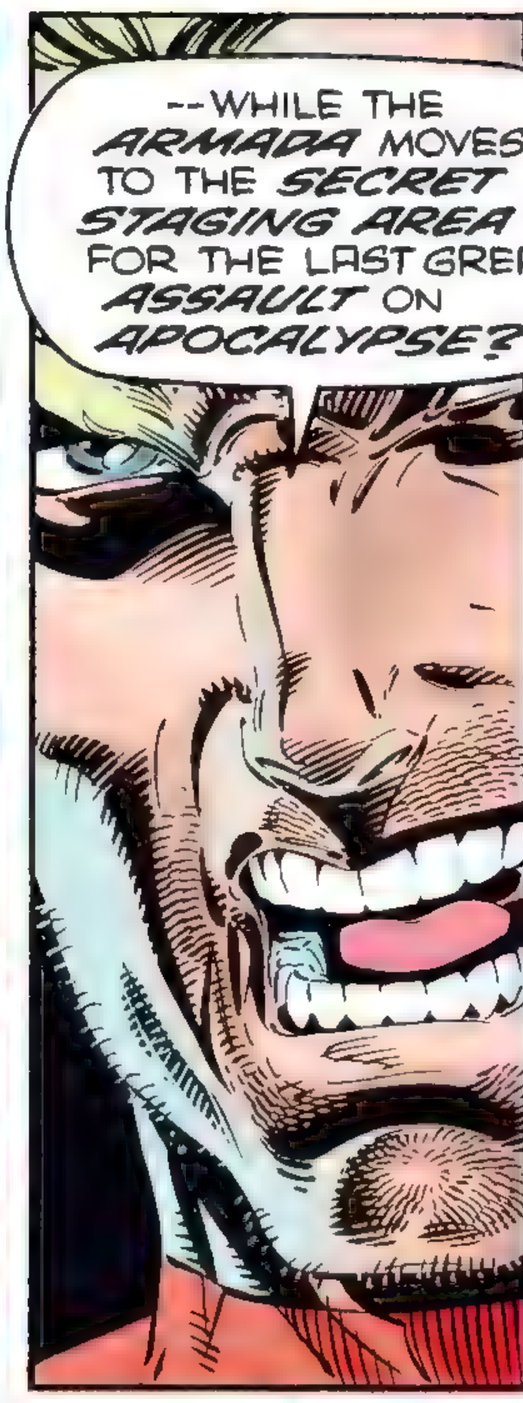

... HOPE YOU FEEL LIKE CLIMBING.

NEVER COMES DOWN...

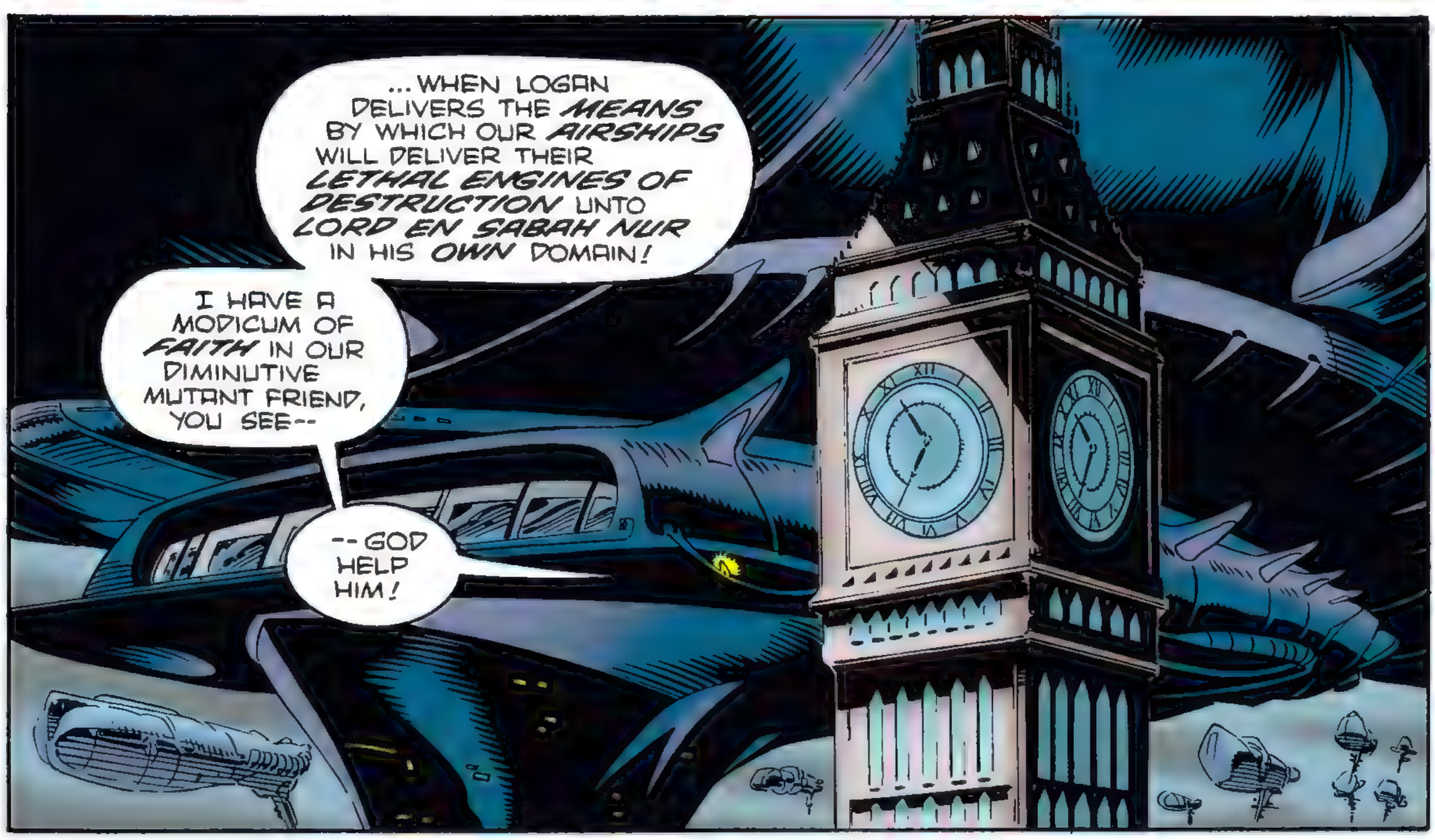

IN LONDON...
... MY MOM AND DAD, THEN MY BROTHER AND TWO SISTERS--
--FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, LITTLE ALIA WAS JUST TWO--!
--I SAW APOCALYPSE'S INFINITES KILL THEM ALL.
I WAS RECORDING IT ALL, Y'SEE, AND IT JUST DIDN'T LOOK REAL THROUGH THE VIEW-FINDER--
--SO I JUST KEPT RECORDING--
--AND RECORDING--
THE HUMAN HIGH COUNCIL THANKS YOU FOR YOUR TESTIMONY, YOUNG MAN...
...AND YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY.
WHAT WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED IS ONLY A PREVIEW OF WHAT AWAITS THE REST OF HUMANITY IF LOGAN FAILS IN HIS MISSION--
HE WILL NOT FAIL, BOLIVAR.
HE KNOWS THAT THE PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO STOP APOCALYPSE!

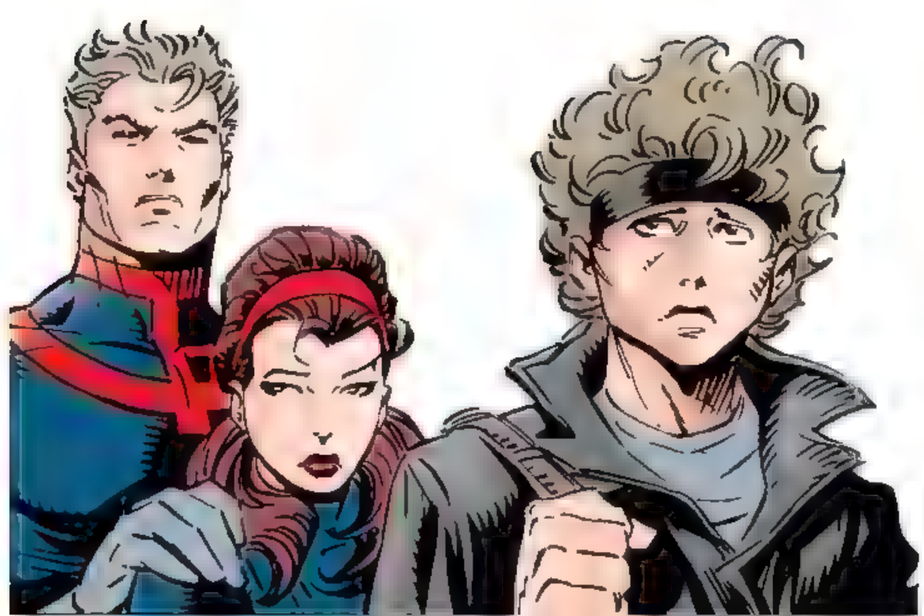
I, FOR ONE, GAVE UP TOO MUCH TO ESCAPE APOCALYPSE!
EVEN IF OUR PLAN FAILS, I WILL FIGHT ON TO THE BITTER END!
BRAVE WORDS, EMMA-- CLAW THEIR EYES OUT, WILL YOU?

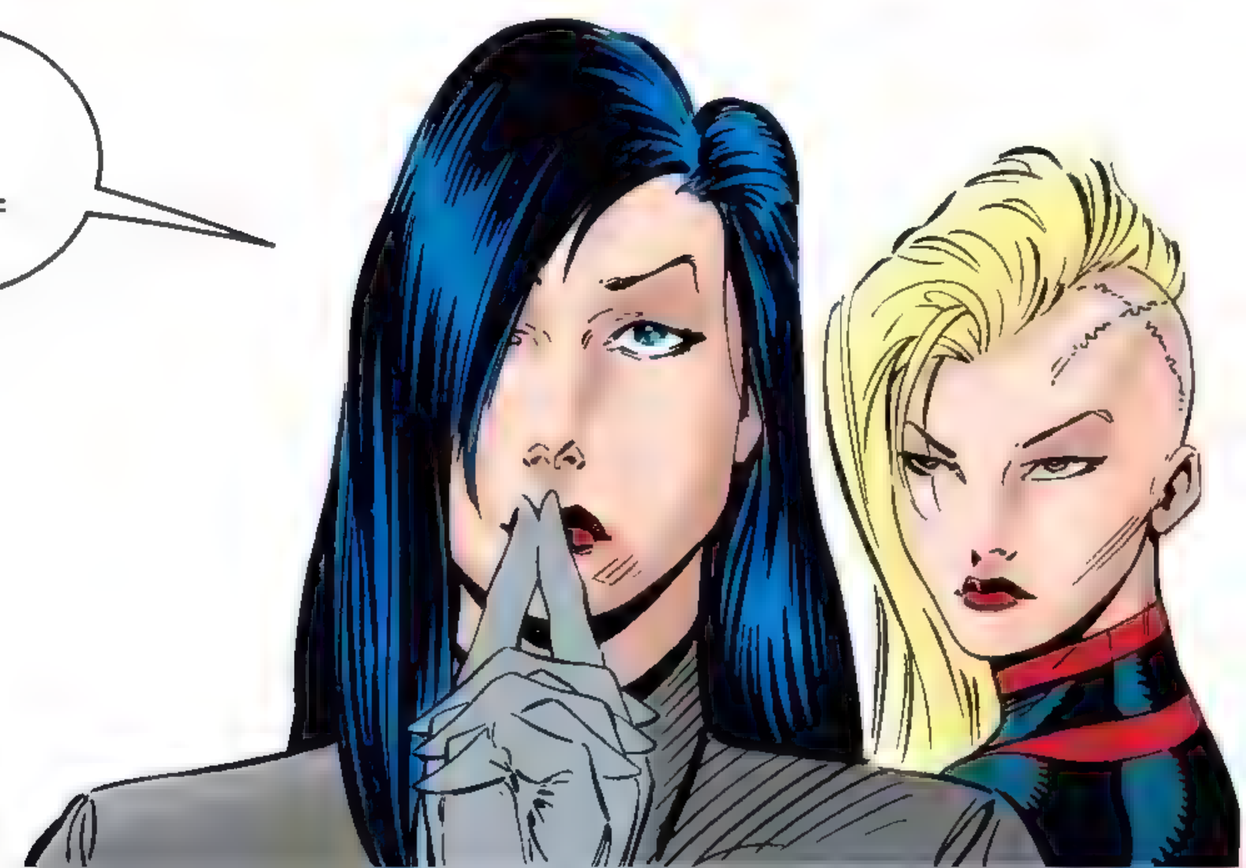
BRADDOCK HAS BEEN A BIT ON EDGE LATELY, MOIRA--
AYE, PERHAPS IT'D BE BEST IF YE REMAINED BEHIND IN LONDON--


--WHILE THE ARMADA MOVES TO THE SECRET STAGING AREA FOR THE LAST GREAT ASSAULT ON APOCALYPSE?

I WON'T BE LEFT BEHIND!
I WANT TO BE THERE...


...WHEN LOGAN DELIVERS THE MEANS BY WHICH OUR AIRSHIPS WILL DELIVER THEIR LETHAL ENGINES OF DESTRUCTION UNTO LORD EN SABAH NUR IN HIS OWN DOMAIN!
I HAVE A MODICUM OF FAITH IN OUR DIMINUTIVE MUTANT FRIEND, YOU SEE--
--GOD HELP HIM!

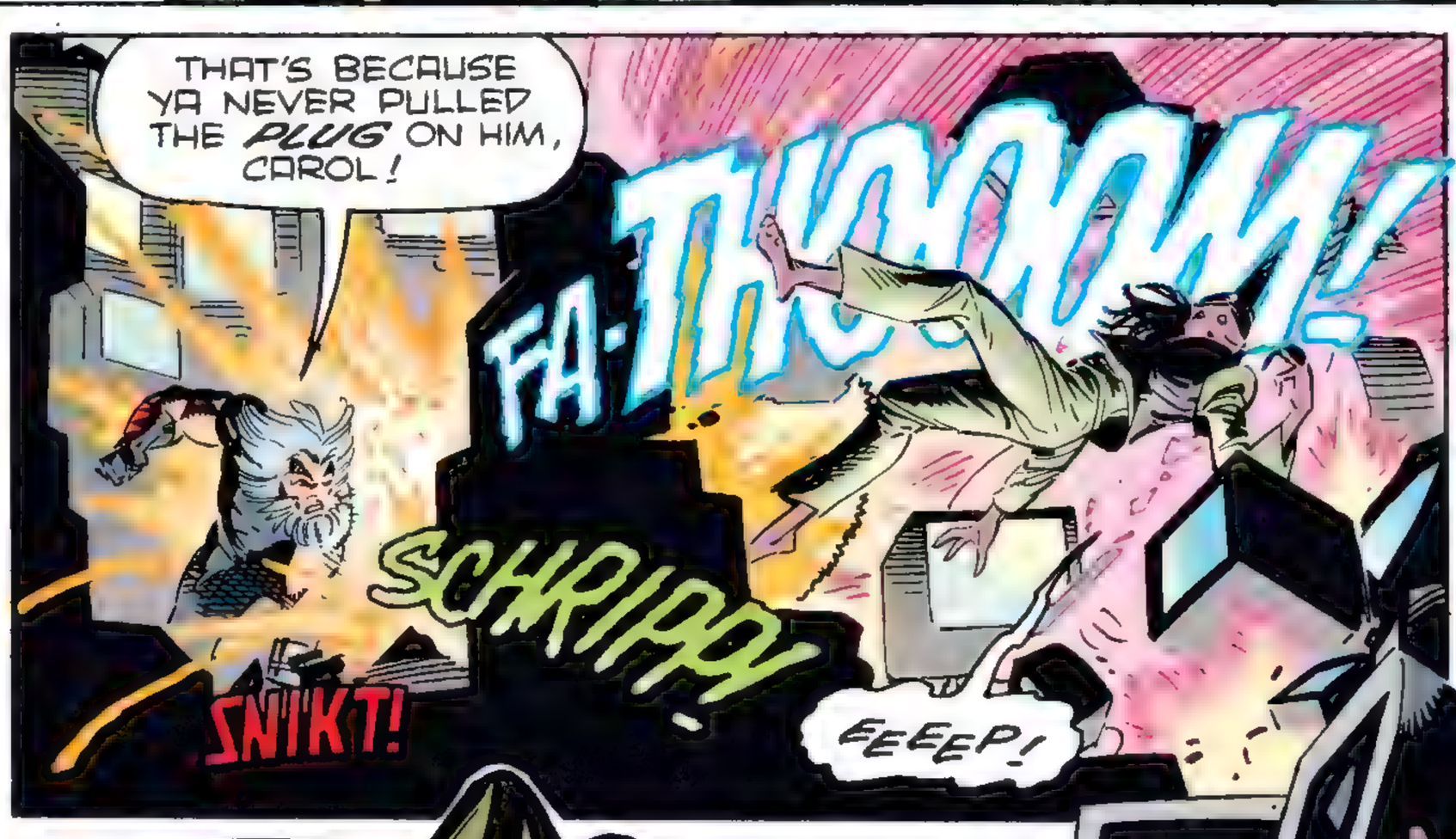


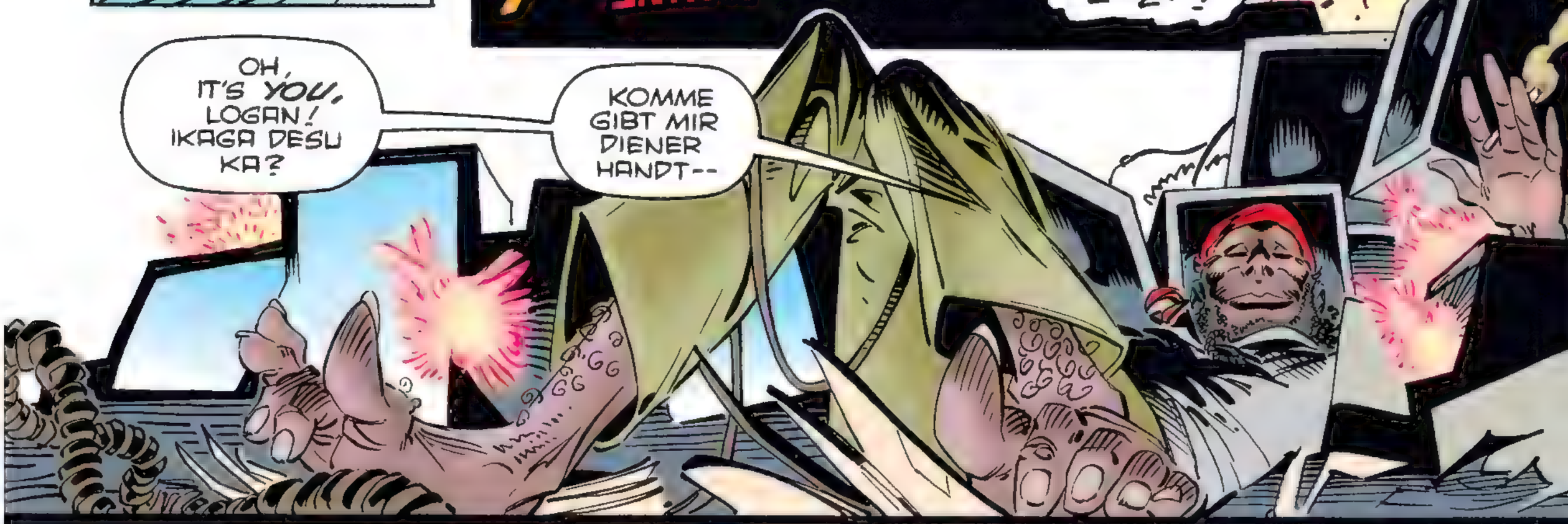

GOD HELP THE REST OF HUMANITY IF HE FAILS.

... HE'S BEEN HOLED UP HERE FOR SIX MONTHS!
WON'T EAT FOR DAYS AT A TIME AND I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SLEEP.
E'LI E'LI L'AMA SABCHTHANI
THERE HE IS, THE SAGE OF THE GREAT WESTERN DESERT HIMSELF--
--GATEWAY!
... ONCE WHEN MIDNIGHT SMOTE THE AIR, EUNUCHS RAN THROUGH HELL AND MET--
...BUT, CAPTAIN--WITHOUT THE DILITHIUM CRYSTALS WE CANNAE--
... Y SOY HOMBRE SINCERO, DE DONDE CRESSE LA PALMA ...
...IT'S AS IF HE'S TRYING TO ABSORB IT ALL BEFORE IT GOES AWAY FOREVER!

YEAH, WELL...
...STUDY HALL HAS JUST ENDED!
LET'S GO, GATEWAY-- IT'S UP TO YOU AND ME TO SAVE THE WORLD!

DON'T DO THIS TO ME, BUB!!
THIS CATATONIC WISE-GUY BIT AIN'T GOIN' DOWN WITH THE OL' CANUCKLE-HEAD--!
IT'S NO USE, LOGAN. HE NEVER ANSWERS--


THAT'S BECAUSE YA NEVER PULLED THE PLUG ON HIM, CAROL!
FA-THOOOM!
SCHRIPP!
SNIKT!
EEEEP!


OH, IT'S YOU, LOGAN! IKAGA DESU KA?
KOMME GIBT MIR DIENER HANDT--

YA WANNA HAND UP, GATEWAY? SURE--
IT'S AS IF SLOW WARM ELECTRICITY WAS FLOWIN' OUTTA ME.
ZZZ

SOME JOY-BUZZER YA GOT THERE...
...WHERE'D YA PICK UP THAT TRICK?
SOMETHING I FOUND IN AN ANCIENT TIBETAN MANU-SCRIPT--REALLY WORKS, DOESN'T IT?
--I HAVE TO PASS ON THAT.
BEAUCOUP BAD KARMA, MUCHO NEGATIVITY--
--AND RAISON NUMERO UNO--S'NOT MY CHOB, MAN!
LEAST I CAN DO IS TELEPORT YOU BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM--
AS FOR PILOTING THE LEAD AIRSHIP IN A PRE-EMPTIVE NUCLEAR STRIKE AGAINST APOCALYPSE--
KA-HOOOM!
WHU--??
HYPER VELOCITY KINETIC ENERGY WEAPON.
THE PROJECTILE TRAJECTORY WAS SKEWED BY MY SPACE TIME WARP--
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES--?

NEVER SEEN AN *ENHANCED HUMAN* BEFORE, GIRLIE?

MANGLE AND I HAD TO DO SOME ON-THE-SPOT *GRAFTING* TO GET *MOBILE* AGAIN, BUT NOW WE'RE *COOKING!*

HERE COMES THE *COUP DE GRACE* I PROMISED YOU BEFORE--!

LOGAN-- THE *CABLE*--

THOOM!

I'LL *GET* IT--!

FIRE IN THE HOLE!

ONE MISSISSIPPI.

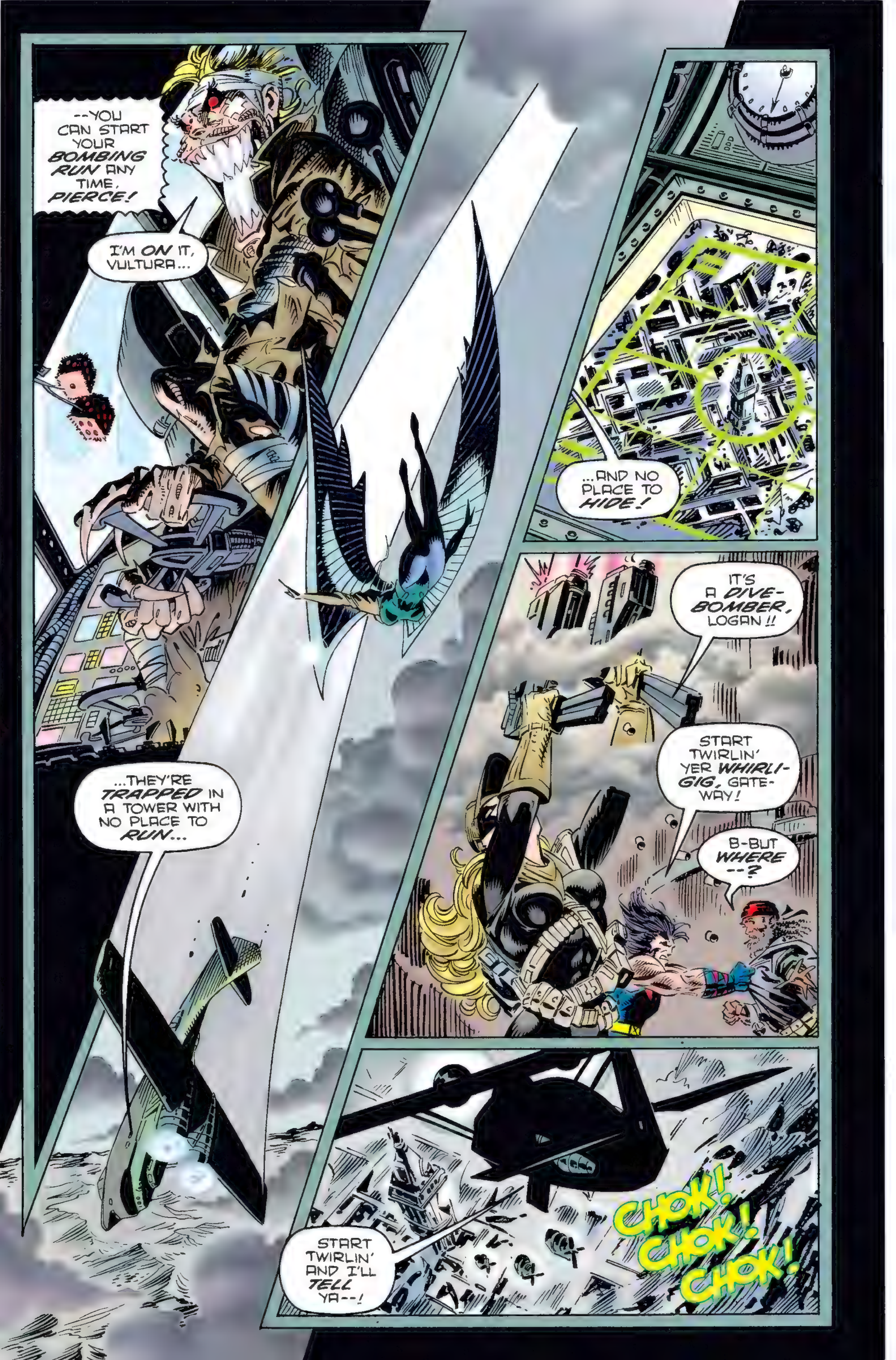
URK!

--I GOT THE CABLE, CAROL!

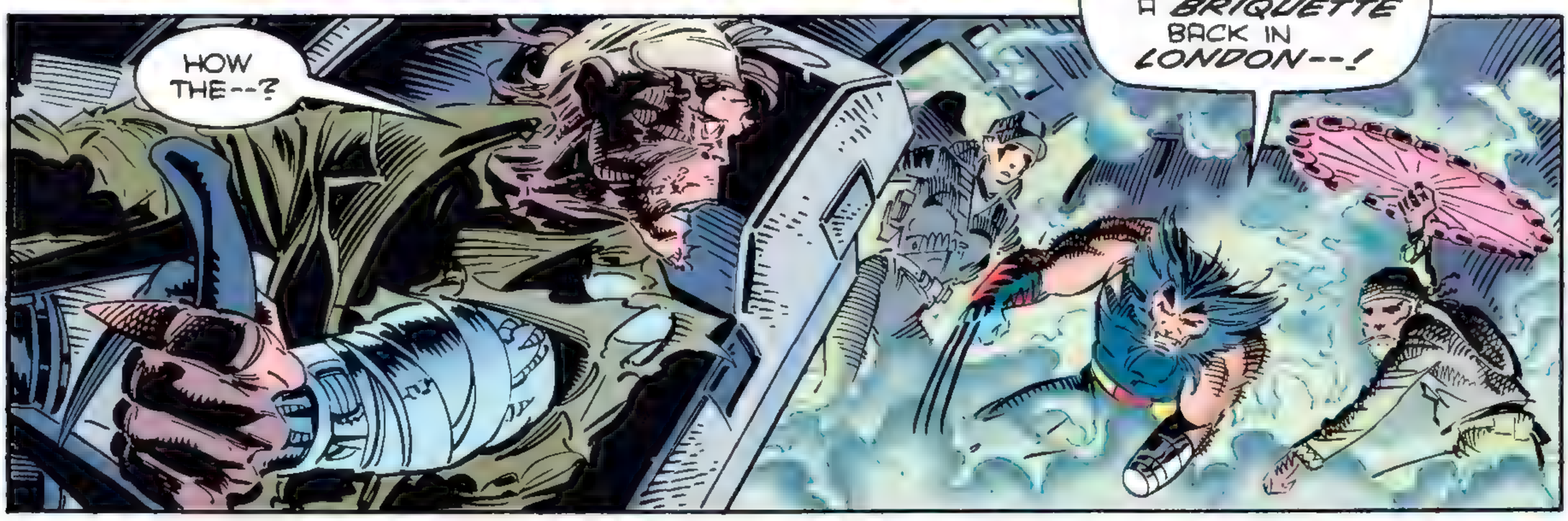
I SEE!

TWO MISSISSIPPI.

DOESN'T CONCERN YA, HUH, GATEWAY?
--WAT'CHA GONNA DO NOW, SMARTY PANTS?
THREE MISSISSIPPI--
FOUR!
YOU STRAIGHT UP ABOUT SAVING THE WORLD? IS THIS THE BIG ONE?
BA-DOOMPH!
CLUTCH HITTER AT THE BOTTOM O' THE NINTH!
NO!
I'M NO BOMBARDIER, NO MERE COG IN THE WAR MACHINE!
I AM THE REPOSITORY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMANITY, THE LIVING INDEX OF EVERY HARD-EARNED SCRAP OF INFORMATION GLEANED IN OUR ASCENT FROM MINDLESS SAVAGERY!
MINE IS THE CATALOGUE OF ALL THE FISHES IN THE SEA, ALL THE CREATURES OF THE EARTH, ALL THE BIRDS OF THE--
--THAT'S NO BIRD!
YOU WERE RIGHT! DEAD-EYE LED US RIGHT TO THEM!
I HAVE THEM IN SIGHT AND I AM ILLUMINATING THEM WITH AN INFRARED SPOTTER BEAM--!


--YOU CAN START YOUR BOMBING RUN ANY TIME, PIERCE!
I'M ON IT, VULTURA...
...AND NO PLACE TO HIDE!
...THEY'RE TRAPPED IN A TOWER WITH NO PLACE TO RUN...
IT'S A DIVE-BOMBER, LOGAN!!
START TWIRLIN' YER WHIRLI-GIG, GATE-WAY!
B-BUT WHERE --?
START TWIRLIN' AND I'LL TELL YA--!
CHOK! CHOK! CHOK!

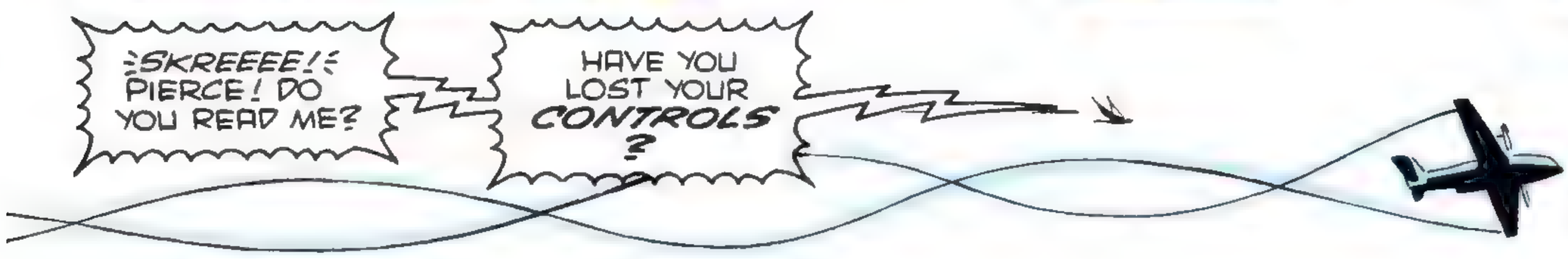
BA-ROOOOM!


HOW THE--?
PIERCE! I THOUGHT YOU GOT TURNED INTO A BRIQUETTE BACK IN LONDON--!

I DID!
BUT THE STUFF OF LIFE IN ME IS STRONG!
SHUK!

"ENHANCEMENT" HAS IT'S ADVANTAGES.

SOUNDS LIKE YER BRAIN GOT A LITTLE WELL DONE...


:SKREEEE!: PIERCE! DO YOU READ ME?
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR CONTROLS?

... MAYBE IT COULD BENEFIT FROM GETTIN' *SLICED OPEN* TO *COOL OFF!*

VULTURA! THEY'RE *INSIDE* THE *PLANE! HELP ME!*

YOU'RE LOSIN' IT, BUB--TALKIN' TO YOURSELF IS A SURE SIGN O'--

SKREEEEEE!

OH, CALLIN' IN AN *AIR STRIKE* ON ME, HUH--?

--TOO BAD SHE CAN'T *STAY*--

SCHRRIPPP!

RRIPP!

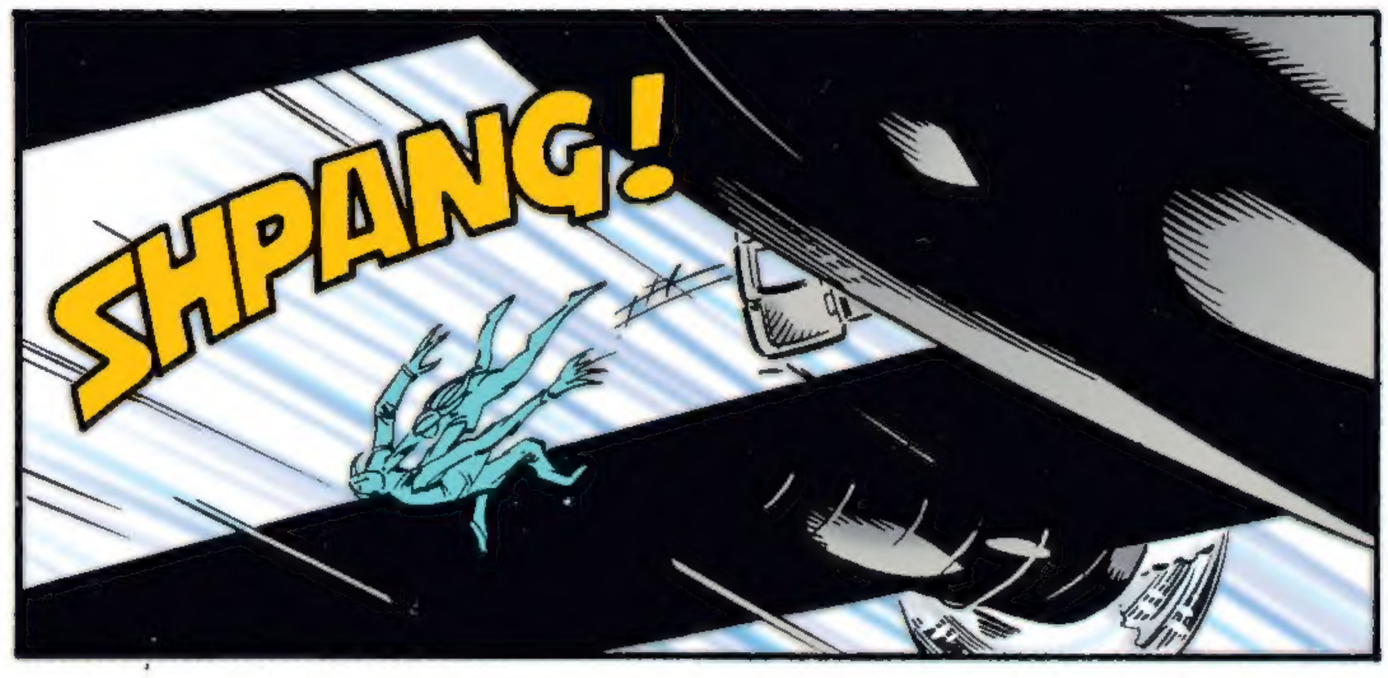
SHTOOM!

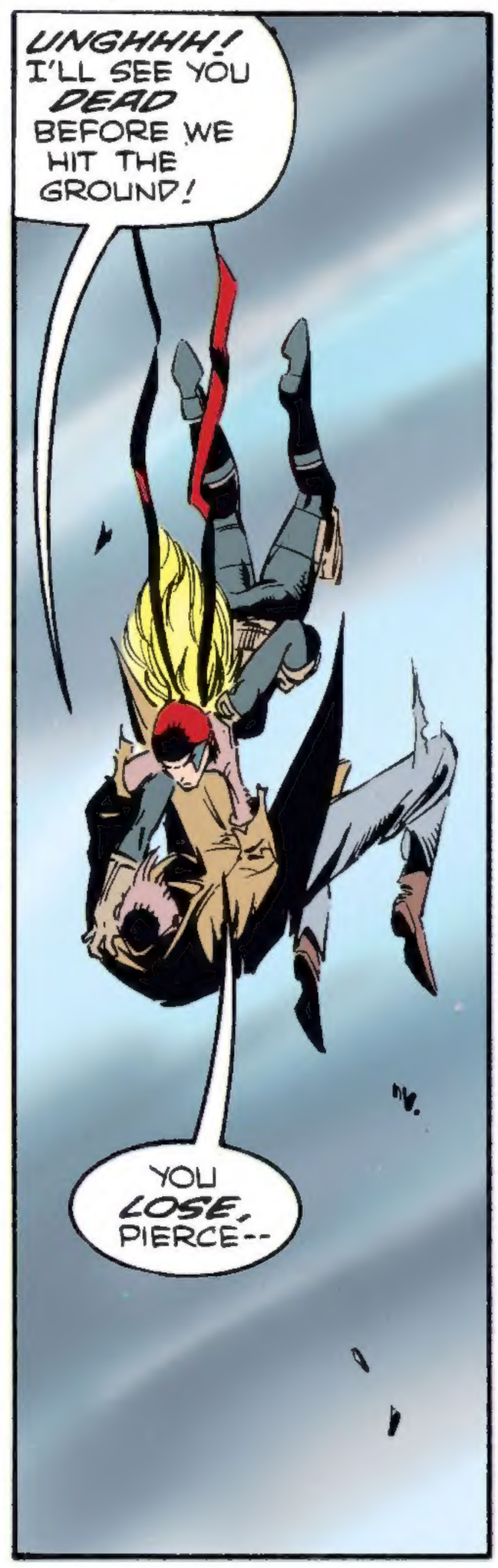
--BUT I'M SURE SHE HAD A *RIPPIN'* GOOD TIME, DEEP DOWN IN HER *GUTS!*

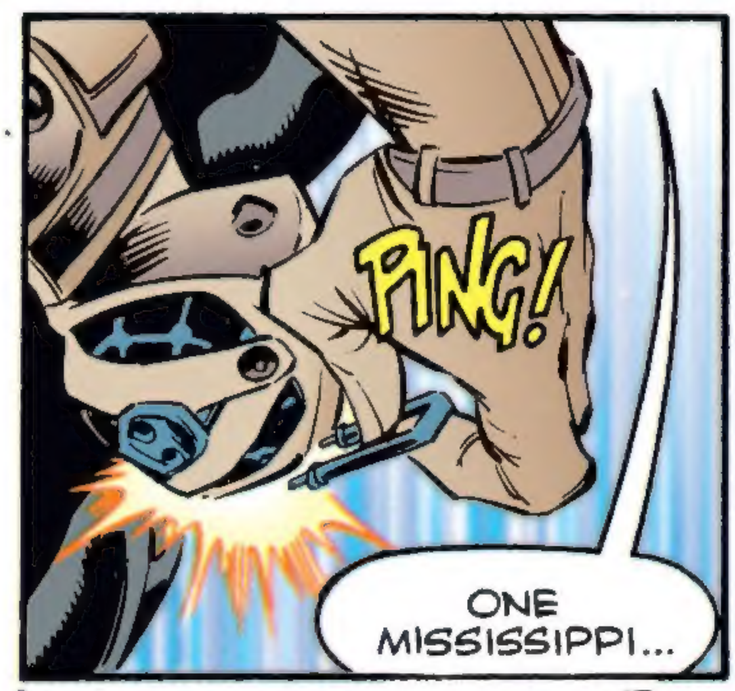
AIIIEEEEEE

EMERGENCY EXIT
SHE DID HER JOB!
SHE BOUGHT ME THE TIME TO DO THIS--

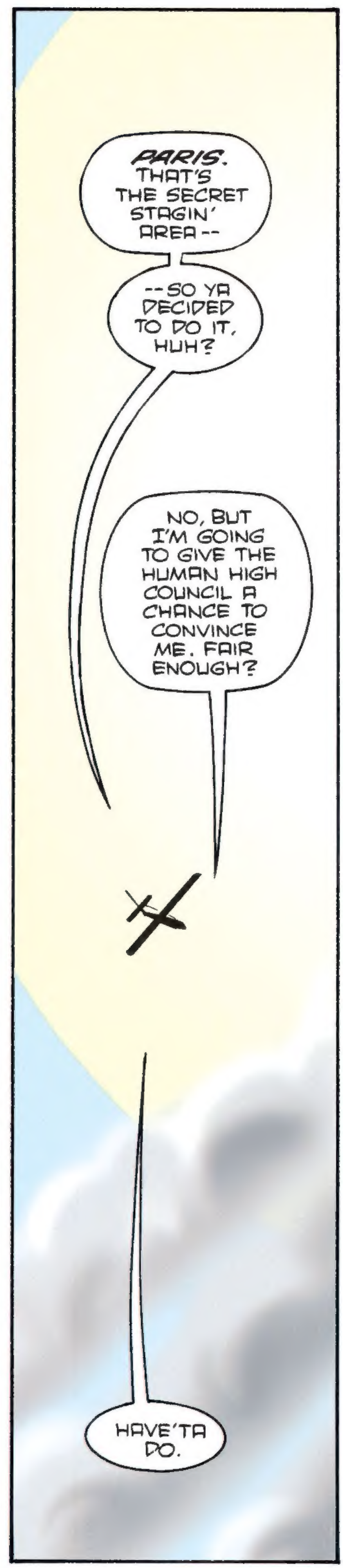
NOOOOOO!


SHPANG!


UNGHHH! I'LL SEE YOU DEAD BEFORE WE HIT THE GROUND!
YOU LOSE, PIERCE--


PING!
ONE MISSISSIPPI...

TWO MISSISSIPPI...



NEXT: TO DESTROY AN EMPIRE!

E
E
M
R
P
I
ZOMPIE